

National Transportation Safety Board
Washington, DC 20594

Brief of Accident

Adopted 09/21/1992

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|--|--|------------|--|---------------|--|--|--|-------------------------|--|
| DEN90FA043 | | 01/17/1990 | | LEADVILLE, CO | | Aircraft Reg No. N835FE | | Time (Local): 07:19 MST | |
| File No. 166 | | | | | | | | | |
| Make/Model: CESSNA / 208A | | | | | | Fatal | | Serious | |
| Engine Make/Model: P&W / PT6A-114 | | | | | | Crew | | Minor/None | |
| Aircraft Damage: Destroyed | | | | | | 1 | | 0 | |
| Number of Engines: 1 | | | | | | Pass | | 0 | |
| Operating Certificate(s): On-demand Air Taxi | | | | | | 0 | | 0 | |
| Name of Carrier: P.M. AIR, INC. | | | | | | | | | |
| Type of Flight Operation: Non-scheduled; Domestic; Cargo | | | | | | | | | |
| Reg. Flight Conducted Under: Part 135: Air Taxi & Commuter | | | | | | | | | |
| Last Depart. Point: DENVER , CO | | | | | | Condition of Light: Dawn | | | |
| Destination: MONTROSE , CO | | | | | | Weather Info Src: Weather Observation Facility | | | |
| Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip | | | | | | Basic Weather: Visual Conditions | | | |
| | | | | | | Lowest Ceiling: None | | | |
| | | | | | | Visibility: 30.00 SM | | | |
| | | | | | | Wind Dir/Speed: 210 / 006 Kts | | | |
| | | | | | | Temperature (°C): -9 | | | |
| | | | | | | Obstr to Vision: None | | | |
| | | | | | | Precipitation: None | | | |
| Pilot-in-Command | | Age: 35 | | | | Flight Time (Hours) | | | |
| Certificate(s)/Rating(s) | | | | | | Total All Aircraft: 2800 | | | |
| Flight Instructor; Commercial; Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land | | | | | | Last 90 Days: 25 | | | |
| Instrument Ratings | | | | | | Total Make/Model: 25 | | | |
| Airplane | | | | | | Total Instrument Time: 450 | | | |

PM AIR FLT 824, A FEDERAL EXPRESS SCHEDULED DOMESTIC CARGO FLT, DEPARTED DENVER, CO, AT 0642, IFR TO MONTROSE, CO. FLT WAS CLEARED TO FL 180, BUT PLT CANCELLED IFR AT 0653. RADAR SHOWED ACFT LEVELED OFF AT 14,500 FT ON SW HEADING. ACFT MAINTAINED RELATIVE CONSTANT ALT AND HEADING BEFORE CRASHING 50 FT BELOW SUMMIT OF 14,221-FT MT MASSIVE, SECOND TALLEST PEAK IN CO, AT APRX 0719. WX WAS CAVU. TOXICOLOGICAL TESTS REVEALED MARIJUANA METABOLITE LEVEL OF 37 NG/ML IN URINE AND 1 NG/ML IN BLOOD. PLT WAS ONCE CONVICTED IN 1974 FOR POSSESSION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE, BUT HAD NO OTHER ALCOHOL/DRUG CONVICTIONS. EVIDENCE INDICATES PLT OBTAINED ADEQUATE SLEEP PRIOR TO FLT. DURING AUTOPSY, TWO PAGES FROM AIRMEN'S INFORMATION MANUAL WERE FOUND CLUTCHED IN PLT'S HANDS.

Brief of Accident (Continued)

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| DEN90FA043 | | | | |
| File No. 166 | 01/17/1990 | LEADVILLE, CO | Aircraft Reg No. N835FE | Time (Local): 07:19 MST |

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. AUTOPILOT - SELECTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) DIVERTED ATTENTION - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY
4. LIGHT CONDITION - DAYLIGHT

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows.
DIVERSION OF THE PILOT'S ATTENTION, RESULTING IN AN IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN DURING NORMAL CRUISE FLIGHT.